

Sharing Our Story...

Union Street Baptist Church Crewe



Union Street Baptist Church has been a Christian presence in Crewe for more than 100 years, reaching out and connecting with the local community in a number of different ways, including Brownies, Rainbows, Beavers, Cubs, coffee mornings, choir and 'T Club'. The church has played an active role in establishing Street Pastors in Crewe, as church secretary Helen Birtles explains....

"In January 2018, our minister Rev Linda Clack was instrumental in starting the procedure to commence a Street Pastor scheme in Crewe. Several meetings were held with the Cheshire East Council, Cheshire Police, representatives of local churches, members of a similar scheme from a local town and eventually with members of the Ascension Trust. The police decided it will be most useful to set up a group who can work with younger teenagers on the streets during the early evenings as there are several areas of Crewe where the teenagers gather to cause vandalism and obstruction. The 'police want to get back control of the streets'.

By May, the police promised a grant of £10,000 to set up and run Street Pastors in Crewe. The next step was a meeting in July between Cheshire East Council reps. the Police, local churches, the Ascension Trust, and all interested parties. A Street Pastor from Middlewich addressed the meeting to explain how their Street Pastors work. They work with young teenagers during Friday evenings, which has been suggested by the police for Crewe. In all, 20 people were needed to be trained initially to provide a group of four pastors each Friday. Then Prayer Pastors were required to volunteer to pray while the pastors are on the streets. Also, a steering group required to set up the organisation and Trustees as they will be required to be registered with the Charity Commission.

An appeal was made at the meeting for volunteers to make themselves known and many came forward volunteering for all the positions required. Support was required from at least five different denominations for the Ascension Trust to agree to proceed. Union Street Baptist Church have provided a treasurer for the Trust and we have several volunteers who wish to train as Street Pastors and several volunteers to be Prayer Pastors. The licensing agreement has been signed to set up the Trust and the group are expecting to complete their training early in the new year so that work can start on the streets of Crewe by the summer.

We are grateful to Home Mission who help our church to employ a full-time minister and we eagerly await the results of the planning in the New Year.

Reflective Questions: Where are the opportunities for your church to engage with those who are not part of it? How well does your church relate to other local organisations? What could you do better together that you couldn't do alone?

